

SC CHAPTER OF FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW QUI TAM PRACTICE GROUP

The South Carolina Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has formed a *Qui Tam* Section for those practitioners whose focus involves Federal False Claims Act (“FCA”) litigation. The Co-Chairs of this *Qui Tam* Section are Joseph P. Griffith, Jr. and Matthew R. Hubbell.

The number of FCA lawsuits has grown significantly in recent years. In 2014, the United States Department of Justice (“DOJ”) recovered over \$5.69 billion in settlements and judgments from civil cases under the FCA. In 2014, for the second year in a row, over 700 *qui tam* whistleblower cases were filed, and whistleblowers received about \$435 million in awards from the DOJ. Most observers believe these trends will continue.

While the FCA was enacted in the 1863, many aspects of the law are unsettled and evolving. We created our *Qui Tam* Section in order to keep abreast of the most current developments in the field of FCA litigation.

Joe and Matt have developed a preliminary agenda for the *Qui Tam* Section which is set forth below:

1. Distribute quarterly eblast summaries of the latest important *Qui Tam* case law developments with a focus on rulings from the District of South Carolina and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Solicit 2 to 4 volunteer attorneys to help provide updates.
2. Conduct at least one SC Bar-approved *Qui Tam* CLE per year with federal judges, USAO attorneys, DOJ attorneys and private attorneys.
3. Conduct semi-annual group discussions on latest *Qui Tam* trends via conference call, skype, go-to-meetings or similar video networking platforms. If this proves workable and popular, we can increase the number of such discussions as demand merits.
4. Coordinate with the national FBA to provide assistance to, and receive information from, its newly formed *Qui Tam* Section.
5. Create a small booklet directory of *Qui Tam* Section FBA-SC members.
6. Create a video library of interviews with judges and attorneys of *Qui Tam* related topics, i.e., Youtube or similar platform.
7. Request that the USAO for the District of South Carolina send the FBA-SC *Qui Tam* Section all press releases related to FCA cases.
8. Long-term project – Consider drafting a book on *Qui Tam* Practice and Procedure.

If you would like to volunteer regarding any aspect of the *Qui Tam* Section, or have potential ideas or suggestions, please contact Joe at joe@joegriffith.com or Matt at matt@matthubbell.com.